

J. J. Abrams - Star Wars IX - Skywalker Superhuman Magnetic Man



Star Wars IX directed by J. J. Abrams Skywalker Superhuman Magnetic Man

Star Wars: Episode IX is an upcoming American space opera film produced, co-written and directed by J. J. Abrams. It will be the third and final installment of the Star Wars sequel trilogy and the ninth and final installment of the main Star Wars film franchise, following *The Force Awakens* (2015) and *The Last Jedi* (2017). The film is produced by Lucasfilm and Bad Robot Productions and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

The film was announced after Disney's acquisition of Lucasfilm in October 2012, with Colin Trevorrow announced as the film's director in August 2015. In September 2017, Trevorrow left the project due to creative differences; he was replaced by Abrams, who previously directed *The Force Awakens*. Filming began in August 2018 at Pinewood Studios near London. Episode IX is set to be released on December 20, 2019, in the United States.

In October 2012, Star Wars creator George Lucas sold his production company Lucasfilm, and with it the Star Wars franchise, to The Walt Disney Company. Disney announced a new trilogy of Star Wars films. In August 2015, Colin Trevorrow was announced as the director of *Star Wars: Episode IX*. Trevorrow, along with Derek Connolly, would write the script. It was also announced that Rian Johnson, director and writer of *The Last Jedi*, would create a story treatment for the film; however, in April 2017, Johnson stated he was not involved, claiming it was "old info". In February 2016, Disney chief executive officer Bob Iger confirmed that pre-production of Episode IX had begun. At the end of April 2017, Disney announced the film would be released on May 24, 2019. A month later, filming was expected to begin in January 2018. J. J. Abrams has returned to direct.

In August 2017, it was announced that Jack Thorne would rewrite the script. On September 5, 2017, Lucasfilm stated that Trevorrow had left the production following creative differences. The

Hollywood Reporter reported that Trevorrow and Kennedy's relationship had become "unmanageable" after Trevorrow had been given opportunities to work on multiple drafts of the script. Johnson was seen as the top choice to replace him as director, but stated "it was never in the plan for me to direct Episode IX". A week later, it was announced that J. J. Abrams, director of *The Force Awakens*, would return to direct Episode IX. Abrams will also co-write the film with Chris Terrio and produce the film through his company Bad Robot Productions, with Kennedy and Michelle Rejwan. Disney also moved the film's release date to December 20, 2019. As principal photography began on August 1, 2018, director J. J. Abrams shared a behind the scenes photo to mark the occasion.

Casting: Carrie Fisher, who played Leia Organa, died in 2016. Variety and Reuters reported that she had been planned for a key role in Episode IX.

The film producers have not revealed how they plan to address Fisher's death and what will become of her character. In January 2017, Lucasfilm stated that there were no plans to digitally generate Fisher's performance as they had for *Rogue One*. The following April, Fisher's brother Todd revealed that he and Fisher's daughter had granted Disney and Lucasfilm the rights to use recent footage of Fisher. However, Kennedy stated that Fisher would not appear in the film. In July, though, Abrams said that unused footage of Fisher from *The Force Awakens* would be utilized to help complete the story. A week later, Lucasfilm confirmed that unused footage of Fisher from *The Last Jedi* would also be used. Billy Dee Williams is slated to return as Lando Calrissian.

In July 2018, Keri Russell was in talks to play a part for some "action-heavy fight scenes", along with the long-awaited confirmation that Billy Dee Williams will return as Lando Calrissian. At the end of the month, Russell was confirmed to have been cast, along with the announcement of returning and additional new cast members. In late August, Dominic Monaghan and Matt Smith were cast in unspecified roles. Jimmy Vee and Greg Grunberg reprise their roles as R2-D2 and Snap Wexley respectively. Brian Herring returns to puppeteer BB-8.

Filming: Principal photography began on August 1, 2018, at Pinewood Studios in London, England. Oscar Isaac stated that Abrams is allowing more improvised acting than in the previous two films. Filming was also done in Wadi Rum in Jordan (the same filming location for Jedha in 2016's *Rogue One*). Filming is expected to be completed by February 2019. In December 2018, Carrie Fisher's brother, Todd Fisher, revealed on *Good Morning America* more new details about the unused footage of Leia planned to be used in *Star Wars: Episode IX* after Carrie Fisher's death from *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*.

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